

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SAM-01 IO-10 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02

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AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
USMIS ION NATO
DIA WASHDC
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 7611

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA 2)

CORRECTED COPY. (CORRECTION OF PARA 2.)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL DECISIONS

REF: LISBON 7573 (DTG 221125Z DEC 75)

SUMMARY: FOLLOWING DEC 22 - 23 MEETING, REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL
RELEASED SOMBER CHRISTMAS MESSAGE DESIGNED TO PREPARE PORTUGUESE
PEOPLE FOR POLITICALLY UNPOPULAR AUSTERITY MEASURES NECESSARY TO
MEET NATION'S ECONOMIC PROBLEM. END SUMMARY.

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1. REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL: FOLLOWING DEC 22/23 MEETING
REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL (RC) RELEASED COMMUNIQUE ANNOUNCING
IT HAD:
-- CONFIRMED NOMINATIONS OF CDR VASCO ALMEIDA E COSTA AND
CDR VICTOR CRESPO AS NAVY CR REPRESENTATIVES.
-- STUDIED SITUATION OF MARCH 11 AND NOV 25 ABORTIVE COUP
ATTEMPT DETAINEES, AND RECOMMENDED PROMPT ACTION BY COMMISSIONS
SO THAT TRIALS CAN START WITHOUT DELAY.
-- RECOMMENDED TO GOVERNMENT THAT NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR
ANGOLAN RETURNEES BE CREATED DIRECTLY UNDER PRIME MINISTER.
-- RATIFIED FOREIGN INVESTMENT CODE APPROVED BY GOVERNMENT
DEC 20 AND APPROVED LARGE INTERNAL LOAN (REFTTEL).
-- DECIDED TO EXPELL TWENTY UNIDENTIFIED SOLDIERS FROM ARMY
ON THE BASIS OF PROPOSAL FROM ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF.
-- APPROVED AMENDMENT TO LAW GOVERNING TRIAL OF MEMBERS OF
FORMER REGIME'S POLITICAL POLICE (PIDE/DGS).
-- APPROVED ESTABLISHMENT OF TWO ADDITIONAL MILITARY COURTS
IN LISBON MILITARY DISTRICT.

2. RC ALSO DELIVERED GLOOMY
CHRISTMAS MESSAGE TO NATION DEC 23. NOTING FORMIDABLE
ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL CHALLENGES FACING PORTUGAL IN COMING
YEAR, RC EMPHASIZED NEED FOR UNITY, PATRIOTISM, AND
"POLITICAL CONSCIENTIOUSNESS" AMONG PORTUGUESE.

3. SA CARNEIRO ON GOVERNMENT NEGOTIATIONS: POPULAR DEMOCRATIC
PARTY (PPD) SECRETARY-GENERAL SA CARNEIRO TOLD PPD RALLY IN
LISBON DEC 22 THAT PROPOSED REORGANIZATION OF AZEVEDO GOVERNMENT
WHICH WOULD GIVE SOCIALIST PARTY FOUR MINISTERS, THE PPD THREE,
AND THE COMMUNIST PARTY (PCP) TWO WAS UNACCEPTABLE BECAUSE IT
WOULD DOUBLE COMMUNIST PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT. HE ALSO
ATTACKED "POLITICAL" MILITARY WHO WISHED ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT
TO REMAIN AS "MOTOR" OF REVOLUTION, AND CRITICIZED PS FOR
ADVOCATING STATE OWNERSHIP OF MEANS OF PRODUCTION.

4. SOARES RETURNS: PS SECRETARY-GENERAL MARIO SOARES RETURNED
DEC 22 FROM VISIT TO EUROPEAN CAPITALS. HE TOLD AIRPORT GREETERS
THAT NONPARTISANSHIP IN ARMED FORCES WAS WELCOMED IN ALL EUROPE
AS A LARGE STEP FORWARD ON THE ROAD TO A SOCIALIST DEMOCRACY.
SOARES SAID THAT ECONOMIC PROBLEMS ARE ASSUMING
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FUNDAMENTAL IMPORTANCE, AND THAT AUSTERITY MEASURES TAKEN WERE
ESSENTIAL. HE REPORTED THAT CONVERSATIONS WITH BRITISH FONMIN
JAMES CALLAGHAN HAD FOCUSED ON PRESSURE ON GREAT BRITAIN BY
SEVERAL AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS TO TAKE POSITION ON ANGOLA. SOARES
SAID NEGOTIATED POLITICAL SOLUTION FOR ANGOLA MUST BE FOUND.
WITH SOARES'S RETURN, CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN SECRETARIES-GENERAL OF
PS, PPD, AND PCP ON REORGANIZATION OF AZEVEDO GOVERNMENT RESUME
DEC 23.

5. COMMENT: RC'S SOMBER CHRISTMAS MESSAGE IS DESIGNED TO
UNDERScore GRAVITY OF PORTUGUESE ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES AND TO
PREPARE POPULATION FOR POLITICALLY UNPOPULAR AUSTERITY MEASURES
GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO TAKE.
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